



N.C. Department of Environment and Natural Resources

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Contacts: J.D. Potts or Erin Bryan

Phone: (252) 726-6827

WATER QUALITY SWIMMING ADVISORY LIFTED IN THE CAPE FEAR RIVER, NEW HANOVER COUNTY

MOREHEAD CITY – State environmental health officials today lifted a precautionary advisory against swimming in the waters of the Cape Fear River. The advisory was lifted because water testing now shows that bacteria levels have dropped below the state and federal standard set for swimming and water play.

The advisory is lifted for waters in the Cape Fear River from Wilmington to Snow's Cut. The swimming advisory was posted July 6 because of potential health risks resulting from a malfunction in a wastewater collection system line. An estimated 2.4 million gallons of untreated sewage discharged into the river. Temporary repairs of the collection line are now in place and water quality conditions in the river have now improved.

State environmental health officials issued the precautionary advisory because untreated wastewater can cause adverse health effects such as diarrhea, abdominal cramps and skin infections. State officials have monitored the situation and bacteriological test results have come back within state and federal standards.

For more information about the coastal recreational water quality program, visit our Web site at http://www.deh.enr.state.nc.us/shellfish/Water_Monitoring/RWQweb/home.htm.

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